

REMARKS

Minor editorial corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 1, 9, 12 - 13, 21, 24 - 25, 33, and 36 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections or amendments, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 36 remain in the application.

I. Drawing Amendments

As discussed above in "Amendments to the Drawings", the arrows (and their corresponding reference numbers) connecting element 510 to element 520 have been rearranged for improved readability. No new matter has been introduced.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action dated February 11, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1 - 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,862,323 to Blakley et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended their independent Claims 1, 13, and 25 herein to more clearly specify that the user identifier and identifying secret are transmitted from the client over the secure connection. This same information is then propagated from the password synchronization agent to one or more target registries, if validation of the user's information by a trusted master repository succeeds. (An exception is found in Claims 12, 24, and 36, where the user provides a new value for the identifying secret, and this new value is substituted prior to the propagation.)

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This is distinct from the teachings of Blakley, as will now be described.

Blakley stores passwords as attributes of a registry 102 and in a password repository 112.

Either in a push mode or a pull mode, these previously-stored values can be propagated.

Applicants' claims do not pertain to propagating already-stored information. Instead, as just described, Applicants' claims are directed toward propagating an identifying secret that has been transmitted from the client (or has been newly-entered, in Claims 12, 24, and 36). Applicants have described Blakley's teachings on p. 8, lines 7 - 14 of their specification. As noted therein, most registries do not allow plaintext passwords to be stored. Applicants further note on p. 8 of their specification that secure registries do not allow retrieval of existing passwords for creating plaintext versions thereof.

Applicants' specification further states on p. 9, lines 14 - 16 that an object of their invention is to provide propagation techniques that "do not make stored security credential values ... accessible, nor a plaintext version thereof". Page 19, lines 4 - 6 also states that Applicants' invention does not require "that the registry stores the security credentials in plaintext form, nor that the registry provides a way to access an original value from which a particular user's stored credentials were created". Page 24, lines 9 - 10 (as amended herein to correct a typographical error) emphasize that the credentials "which the user entered at 403" are forwarded (i.e., propagated) to the target registries.

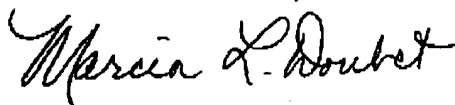
This is distinct from Blakley's technique of retrieving an already-stored password and

forwarding that value. As noted in the cited passages from Applicants' specification, many registries do not allow that type of retrieval, and thus Applicants' claimed invention propagates the information directly from the PSA at which it was received (after validating that correct information was received). Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 13, and 25, as amended, are patentable over the reference. Dependent Claims 2 - 12, 14 - 24, and 26 - 36 are therefore patentable over the reference as well. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102 rejection.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

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